



WESTERN INVESTING FOR HEALTH

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Fair Society—Healthier Lives

Sir Michael Marmot has just published a significant strategic review of health inequalities in England, the findings of which will have significant impact for addressing health inequalities in Northern Ireland.

The report highlights the need to reduce health inequalities as a matter of fairness and social justice and indicates that social gradient and health are that the lower a persons social position the worse a persons health -and action should be focused on reducing the gradient in health. This has been the drive that has been taken forward by WIFH since its establishment in 2002 and the report gives some degree of emphasis on where the work of the Partnership will move forward in the coming years. The report identifies six policy objectives, which is similar to the Investing for Health objectives. They are:

- Give every child the best start in life,
- Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives,
- Create fair employment and good work for all,
- Ensure healthy standards of living for all,
- Create and develop healthy, sustainable places and communities,
- Strengthen the role and impact of ill-health prevention.

The report will be reviewed by the IFH Partnership and will help focus its work as part of the forward planning process the Partnership is currently undergoing.

UPCOMING EVENTS

IFH Forward
Planning Workshop
3rd March 2010



Joint-Working update

Further to agreement from the Chief Executives in the Western Area, a Project Team has been meeting on a regular basis to set out a plan for joint working arrangements. The Project Team has secured a high level task force of Directors from each of the Council's involved who met on 4th February to agree the timetable for a continuing programme of shared work. Directors have been secured from various departments within Councils to underscore the importance of tackling the determinants of health and well-being across a range of different domains. Objectives for the Joint Working Programme have been agreed with an initial focus on physical activity. This theme carries forward the excellent working arrangements between the legacy IFH/HAZ and Local Councils in the Western Area over recent years; it enables us to embed that joint working at a corporate level and consider how improving our health and well being can be tackled more effectively, collectively, and efficiently.

A parallel approach has been adopted by the Project Team to enable delivery of common corporate agendas across Local Government and PHA, while delivering a high visibility, high frequency series of events at community-wide level. We have chosen as our first step a 'deep dive' stocktake exercise of the physical activity programmes and events that are planned for the coming year, and a gap analysis to inform the Team on eliminating duplication, increasing joint working to secure efficiencies, achieving economies of scale and targeting services more effectively. A budget of £35,000 has been secured for implementation of the high visibility events which will enable delivery at community level and maintain awareness of physical activity and its role in improving the health and well being of all our people.

Adulthood Subgroups SBA's Update

PROJECT	AMOUNT	DETAIL
Foyle Parents and Friends Association	£3,000	Consolidation of project to provide respite for carers. Includes emotional well-being, physical activity, etc.
Erne Carers	£3,000	Consolidation of project to provide respite for carers. Includes emotional well-being, physical activity, etc.
Cairde Community Allotments	£3,000	Additional capital allocation to Cairde community allotments for unforeseen ground work and equipment. Project will be launched at IFH Forward Planning Workshop on 3 rd
Donagh Community Allotments	£3,000	Allocation to Donagh Community Allotments to match fund £1,000 allocation under Healthy Town Initiative.
Strabane District Council/Sigersons	£8,500	Allocation towards 'outdoor gym' to be built in neighbourhood renewal area beside community allotments site and Mourne footbridge. Target group older adults. Match
Strabane LGBT	£3,000	Allocation towards Physical Activity, Nutrition and Emotional Wellbeing Programme for recently established LGBT
Oak Healthy Living Centre	£8,500	Allocation towards mobile physical activity equipment for teenagers and young adults to be available throughout the Fermanagh District Council Area. This will provide match

Fuel Poverty – Single Pensioners and Lone Parents Still at High Risk

Single pensioners and lone parents are at much higher risk of living in fuel poverty than other households. The continuous household survey indicates that over 60% of single pensioners and 50% of lone parents are experiencing fuel poverty. It is also those living in the private rented and housing executive estates that account for over 40% and are the high risks group which would tend to have an income of less than £7,000 per year (£135 per week).

Other high risks groups are single adults living alone and pensioner couples and these are the priority groups that are being targeted by the WIFH/HAZ Partnership in terms of their Fuel Poverty Action Plan.



We are on the Web!

www.westernifh.org

Keep Warm Packs

Vulnerable people across Northern Ireland are being provided with 'Keep Warm' packs to help them stay warm during the cold weather. This regional scheme has been funded by the Public Health Agency working in partnership with TADA Rural Support Network. The most vulnerable older people, people with a disability, those with chronic illness and the homeless, should expect to receive their pack soon. A total of 1,500 Keep Warm packs are being distributed across the Western Trust area consisting of fleece blankets, bed socks/thermal socks, gloves and hats. The scheme has been co-ordinated locally through WIFH/WHAZ and are being distributed via a range of local organisations i.e. St Vincent de Paul, Omagh Senior Citizens Consortium, Ally Foyle, FOCUS, Derry Healthy Cities, the WHEAP project in each council area, Oak Healthy Living Centre and the Omagh Forum.

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